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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/575,603	09/11/2006	Dominique Lampe	KOB	1623
7590		04/23/2008	EXAMINER	
James C. Wray 1493 Chain Bridge Road Suite 300 McLean, VA 22101			RAMSEY, JEREMY C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3634	
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			04/23/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/575,603	Applicant(s) LAMPE, DOMINIQUE
	Examiner JEREMY C. RAMSEY	Art Unit 3634

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2006.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 13 April 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/0254/06)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 13 July 06

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Page 1, line 24 reads "(baleens)". The examiner can only find one definition of baleens, and that definition means "whalebone". The examiner suggests that this word be deleted from the specification.

Appropriate correction is required.

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: page 6, line 27 reads "glass fibre". The examiner presumes this should read --fiberglass--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 6-9, and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hoyt 742,989.

4. In re claims 6-9 and 11-14, with reference to Figures 1 and 3, Hoyt '989 discloses a folding curtain (21) comprising:

- At least one tunnel (unnumbered at bottom of curtain) extending across the width of the curtain (21).
- A strengthening rod (26) inserted in the tunnel.
- The strengthening rod comprising at one extremity a number of pointed projections (top and bottom portions of 24) and that the tunnel is closed off

by pricking the projections through the wall of the tunnel. (the projections extend out of the tunnel end wall via the rod 26)

- The projections are movable against a spring (31) force.
- The projections are part of a terminal element (24)(27)(28)(31) provided on the strengthening rod (26).
- The terminal element comprises a sleeve shaped jacket (27) containing a coiled spring (31) and an element (28) provided with the pointed projections (24), and the element (28) is movable against the spring force of the coiled spring.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoyt 742,989.

7. In re claims 1-5, the folding curtain of Hoyt '989 has been discussed above and obviously discloses a method for closing of at least one tunnel extending across the width of a curtain (21) including a strengthening rod (26) with a number of pointed projections (24) movable against a spring (31) force, wherein the projections (24) are parts of a terminal element that includes a sleeve (27) on the extremity of the strengthening rod (26).

8. In re claim 8, the folding curtain of Hoyt '989 has been discussed above but fails to disclose:

- Wherein the projections are made of synthetic material.

9. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the projections of Hoyt '989 could be made of synthetic material since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416. By using synthetic materials, it would help maintain a light weight but retain the necessary structural properties.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Lamers et al 2008/0017327, Nien 2005/0269040, Doeblemann 5,275,221, and Newman 3,750,740.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JEREMY C. RAMSEY whose telephone number is (571)270-3133. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 6:30 am-4:00 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katherine Mitchell can be reached on 571-272-7069. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/KATHERINE W MITCHELL/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3634

/Jeremy C Ramsey/
Examiner, Art Unit 3634